



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

CARDIAC EMERGENCIES AND RELATED DISORDERS—Their Mechanism, Recognition and Management—Harold D. Levine, M.D., Senior Associate in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.; Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., 51 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 1960. 381 pages, \$12.00.

This monograph by Dr. Levine is a sound attempt to present a practical account of the treatment of the broad field of cardiac emergencies. It is the outgrowth of seminars presented to senior students over a period of years and therefore is a general clinical account rather than a discussion of the subject in depth or a presentation of recent advances. The author has had some difficulty in separating the emergency from the long-term treatment, at times considering long-term treatment as part of the emergency, such as anticoagulant therapy and in others omitting long-term considerations such as the prevention of recurrent cardiac arrhythmia.

Although an effort has been made to explain the mechanism of the various disturbances, this aspect of the subject has not been considered in depth. Therapy has been discussed in a conventional, practical fashion although at times the author fails to be sufficiently precise in terms of what he recommends as the choice among a variety of potential treatments. For example under paroxysmal atrial tachycardia he uses such phrases as "another choice of medication . . . digitalis . . ." or "the medical literature also reports the use of calcium gluconate," or "one may use various medicinal forms of treatment, probably the simplest and most effective is the subcutaneous injection of 0.5 to 1.0 or even 2.0 mgms. of prostigmine. . . ." The reader is left in doubt as to how the author actually treats the arrhythmia and what he does if the particular treatment that he uses is not effective. It would be most helpful if the author clearly stated the measures which in his own experience were found to be reliable rather than to list all the various methods that have been used.

The discussion of digitalis toxicity is the subject of a special chapter and is most helpful. The reviewer would have liked to have seen a special section on the problem which often presents a real emergency, of when an arrhythmia is the result of excessive digitalis and when it is due to inadequate digitalis. In addition the problem of hypokalemic alkalosis could well be introduced into the discussion of electrolyte disturbances in the chapter on "refractory" congestive heart failure and the distinction between sodium depletion and sodium dilution be more clearly defined. A notable omission in the book concerns emergency treatment of hypertension or a vascular emergency.

In addition to the usual cardiac emergencies, the author has chapters on unusual and noncardiac causes of chest pain, pulmonary embolism, syncope, and cardiac arrest and resuscitation. Each chapter has pertinent references which is a distinct advantage in a monograph of this sort.

The book in general can be recommended as a good account of contemporary thought, but in view of the high price (\$12) one wonders whether the reader would not profit more from purchasing one of the standard texts on heart disease.

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TREATMENT OF CANCER AND ALLIED DISEASES—SECOND EDITION—Tumors of the Breast, Chest and Esophagus, Volume IV—By Sixty-seven Authors, George T. Pack, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Irving M. Ariel, M.D., F.A.C.S., editors. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Division of Harper & Brothers, 49 East Thirty-third Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1960. 667 pages, \$30.00.

The precedent created by the first three volumes of the second edition of this nine-part work is ably continued. The excellent format, clear illustrations and legible text of the earlier volumes are maintained.

In a section on tumors of the *breast*, the senior editors reprint the well-known curve of Nathanson and Welch dealing with survival for untreated cases of breast cancer "a natural yardstick for measuring results of therapy." They fail to point out that these survival figures are estimated from the time of recognition or self diagnosis by the patient, and are not comparable with treated results, since the latter usually are and always should be dated from time of definitive treatment. A curve, corrected by the reviewer to allow for the usual delay of about six months in treated cases has been published (American Journal of Roentgenology, December 1954, page 938).

Since the authors then publish several tables and curves dealing with relative survival data from large centers such as the Mayo Clinic, it would be desirable that the next edition carry an absolute survival rate for treated cases of cancer of the breast from a representative group of centers, drawn to scale with the existing one for untreated cases.

The place of so-called radical mastectomy receives understandable emphasis in this worthy surgical text. But it is difficult to understand why the extended supradradical mastectomy (with supraclavicular and mediastinal excision) should merit a whole chapter. Halstead tried and discarded this mutilating procedure more than half a century ago, and it is questionable whether 11 pages of text and 10 beautiful illustrations should be wasted on it.

The place of orthovoltage radiation therapy in the treatment of breast cancer is ably outlined by Stenstrom and Stone. But the senior editors have appended to this a rather futile method of irradiating the internal mammary vessels which cannot be recommended, especially in the light of Hagensen's work showing that when the internal mammary chain is involved, systemic spread has usually occurred.

The valuable work of the modern Edinburgh school headed by a distinguished group of Scottish surgeons and the radiotherapist McWhirter receives scant mention. Since the absolute results by this method of treatment of carcinoma of the breast equal if they do not surpass the comparable results of "radical" mastectomy, the reason for this omission is ob-

score. Since the recorded death rate for carcinoma of the breast in the United States is increasing, and since radical mastectomy is now regarded by many as merely a good palliative procedure "allowing a maximum number of women to die more comfortably of visceral metastases without local chest wall or axillary recurrence," this reviewer regards the omission of a chapter on the McWhirter program as one meriting correction.

The sections on *thoracic tumors* are introduced with a copy of Rouviere's well known drawing of the lymphatic drainage of the lungs. Since more than 50 per cent of bronchogenic carcinomas originate in the periphery of the lungs, and lie in a bed of numerous thin walled veins, the importance of vascular spread should precede consideration of lymphatic involvement. The poor results attained by any method in the treatment of bronchogenic carcinoma attest this early vascular spread and are considered in subsequent chapters. The authors of the section dealing with bronchial adenomas recommend conservative removal of suitable cases and probably wisely condemn the use of radon seeds in the management of these cases.

It is difficult for the reader to ascertain the senior editor's own preference in the treatment of primary bronchial carcinomas suitable for surgical intervention. There are chapters on "radical lobectomy," pneumonectomy and certain modifications of same. The reader would probably welcome a recommended general policy.

Lampe provides a sound chapter on the radiotherapy of bronchial carcinoma, stressing the usefulness of orthovoltage roentgen therapy and its value in properly selected cases.

The section on tumors of the *esophagus* is the shortest one in the book. An undue amount of space is accorded the radical surgical removal of cancer of the esophagus in the light of the extremely modest results. The by-pass operation is considered in detail. Various methods of radiotherapy of esophageal cancer are discussed, ranging from interstitial radium to betatron treatment. An interesting chart on page 598 shows that the average survival of patients treated with external radiation sources is best with 250 KV. Cobalt and million volt therapy produced a shorter average survival time.

The place of rotation therapy is well discussed by Ebenius and colleagues, and the importance of constant check of the radiated field illustrated by photographs and diagrams. The results are modest, but again better than any published with cobalt or megavoltage, including linear accelerators. Ebenius and colleagues use 200 KV with constant fluoroscope check.

The profession is indebted to Drs. Pack and Ariel for assembling and editing the large amount of valuable material in this volume.

L. H. GARLAND, M.D.

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EDEMA—Mechanisms and Management—A Hahnemann Symposium on Salt and Water Retention—Edited by John H. Moyer, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine, and Morton Fuchs, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1960. 833 pages, \$15.00.

This outstanding volume is the second of the symposia held last year at Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, and maintains the high standards of the first. The date of the meeting is not stated in the volume but it is clear from the references that it was last year. The book consists of short articles by 90 authors, comprehensively reviewing the entire subject of edema. Since edema crosses various specialties, investigators from specialties other than internal medicine are included in the symposium.

The book consists of eight parts, beginning with the basic

physiology of fluid and electrolyte balance which includes a discussion of cell membrane and electrolyte transfer. A discussion of the newer aspects of the counter current osmotic mechanisms of tubular reabsorption, of hormonal effects on electrolytes, aldosteronism, and the mechanisms of hyponatremia are among the subjects discussed in this important first part. Part II is a basic and clinical discussion of the pharmacology and therapeutic use of diuretics. Emphasis is given to the more recent developments. The coverage in this section is thorough with emphasis on basic mechanisms. The remaining sections cover edema secondary to steroids, electrolytes, diuretics in the treatment of hypertension, toxemia of pregnancy, edema of renal origin, of liver origin, and that associated with congestive heart failure. The articles are of a high order of competence and the references at the end of each article indicate that material of 1958 and 1959 is included. The book is profusely illustrated and many charts and diagrams aid the reader in understanding the highly technical material covered in the book.

This is probably the most comprehensive account of the subject of edema both from the physiological and the clinical aspects and should provide a much greater understanding of the complex problems which present themselves in the treatment of edema. The book can be highly recommended to all physicians interested in understanding the mechanisms and pathophysiology of electrolytes, diuretics and the diseases in which they play an important role.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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OBSTETRICS (From the Original Text of Joseph B. DeLee, M.D.) Twelfth Edition—J. P. Greenhill, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. (Hon.) Senior Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, The Michael Reese Hospital; Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Associate Staff, The Chicago Lying-in Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1960. 1098 pages, 1219 illustrations on 903 Figures, 119 in Color, \$17.00.

The new edition of this major American textbook appears just five years after the previous edition, thus attesting to its popularity, but it has indeed been extensively rewritten and revised. Nine chapters have been squeezed within a framework of only ten additional pages, and the number of pages devoted to indexing is precisely the same as before. Twenty of the eighty chapters were contributed by twenty-three assisting experts, most of them nonobstetricians, and some eight other consultants reviewed and advised in the preparation of various portions of the text. Practically every page of the book has been rewritten to some extent, a good many of the older illustrations were deleted, and 162 new ones added. In many instances revision meant insertion of new fragments of text, sometimes without serious consideration of precise placement in relation to what preceded and followed. A notable example is in the section on clinical course of labor, where Caldeyro's work is quoted (and several of his graphs reproduced, without credit being given) far ahead of any mention of his name in the text. Then there follows a brief but rather anticlimactic description of some of Caldeyro's earlier work, more or less as stated in the previous edition, although even this paragraph did not escape some degree of editorial revamping. Throughout the book countless minor changes in sentence structure have been made, presumably to substantiate the claim of extensive revision, but most of these accomplished little beyond an increased work load for the typesetter.

Nevertheless, many parts of this book merit the attention of all obstetricians. Particular mention should be made of the stimulating chapter by Ernest Page on placental physiology, Erik Rydberg's explanation of cephalic labor mechanisms, and McCartney's sensible discussion of toxemia.